

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-01 /073 W

----- 061084

R 030945Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4658

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2458

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: YAR INTERNAL SITUATION

1. YARG CONTINUES TO BE TROUBLED BY STUDENT AGITATION. FOLLOWING RECENT STUDENT TROUBLES IN TAIZ AND HODEIDA, GROUP OF STUDENTS EVENING NOVEMBER 29, BELIEVED STIMULATED BY MUSLIM BRETHREN, BEGAN STONING SHOPS ON SANAA MAIN STREET WHICH WOULD NOT CLOSE FOR PRAYERS DURING ECLIPSE OF MOON. DISTURBANCE BROKEN QUICKLY POLICE WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE. MILITARY POLICE ARE NOW PATROLLING SCHOOLS. AGITATORS HAVE BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF REAL STUDENT GRIEVANCE. INEPT MINED HAS NOT YET DISTRIBUTED TEXTBOOKS THREE MONTHS AFTER SCHOOL OMANING AND STUDENTS ARE CONCENTRATED IN MAJOR CITIES WITH LITTLE TO DO.

2. YARG HAS REACTED TO CONTINUING AGITATION OF STUDENTS BY
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BANNING PUBLIC GATHERINGS AND HAS ARRESTED 150 BRETHREN

SUPPORTERS. COMMAND COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAMDI, WHO WAS DUE TO LEAVE DEC 1 TO ATTEND UAE NATIONAL DAY DEC 2, WITH DAY'S STOPOVER IN RIYADH, CANCELLED TRIP ON SHORT NOTICE AFTERNOON NOV 30 BECUASE OF RESTIVE SITUATION.

3. CONSENSUS OF SOURCES I HAVE QUESTIONED IS THAT HAMDI NOT SERIOUSLY THREATENED, BUT FELT IT UNWISE TO LEAVE IN VIEW INCREASED ACTIVITY OF VARIOUS FACTIONS. RIGHTISTS LED BY CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SHAIKH ABDALLAH AL-AHMAR ARE PRESSING FOR RELEASE BRETHREN SUPPORTERS AND PUNISHMENT LEFTIST AGITATORS. (THEY ARE MOLLIFIED BY FIRM HAMDI ACTION BY CLOSING FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS, A FOCAL POINT OF LEFTIST SUBVERSION.) ABU LUHUM FACTION, WHICH IS TACTICALLY ALLIED WITH LEFTISTS, HAS BEEN INFURIATED BY ANOTHER FIRM AND UNEXPECTED HAMDI DECISION, APPOINTMENT OF HAMDI SUPPORTER LTC AHMAD AL-GHASHMI AS CHIEF OF STAFF IN FACE PRESSURE TO APPOINT LTC DIRHAM ABU LUHUM. ABU LUHUM FACTION IS FOLLOWING USUAL SCATTERGUN APPROACH OF STIRRING UP MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TROUBLE WITHOUT CLEAR GOAL WHERE THERE ARE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. LTC ALI ABU LUHUM, CO OF ASIFA ("STORM") FORCE, IS, FOR EXAMPLE, PUBLICLY ACCUSING MAJOR ABD AL-ALIM, PARATROOP CO AND KEY HAMDI LOYALIST, OF BEING CIA AGENT.

4. IN ALL THIS, HAMDI SEEMS TO BE WORKING TO CALM SITUATION, STANDING FIRMLY IN MIDDLE. HIS CHIEF ASSET IS HIS ACKNOWLEDGED ABILITY TO USE MILIYARY FORCE RATHER THAN PREFERRED COURSE OF POLITICAL MASSAGING AT WHICH HE IS ADEPT. HE HAS REPORTEDLY GIVEN BOTH RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS AND SHAIKH SINAN ABU LUHUM (NOW ELEVATED TO ESSENTIALLY POWERLESS POSITION OF ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT OF COMMAND COUNCIL FOR FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS) A SEVERE TONGUE LASHING. DEP CIC LTC ABU SHAWARIB, WHO HAS BEEEN ADOPTING AMBIVALENT POSITION, HAS ALSO BEEN REPRIMANDED AND HAS WITHDRAWN SULKING TO TOWN OF HAJJA, HIS PERSONAL POWER BASE AS LOCATION HIS "MAJD" ARMY BRIGADE. EXPECTATION IS THAT POLITICAL MANEUVERING WILL NOT BECOME LESS HEATED, ALTHOUGH IT RARELY CEASES IN YAR.

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